

**COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES
March 23, 2017**

Members Present	Members Absent
John Honig	Jerry Morenoff
Sue Guenther	Amoke Alakoye
Richard Jourdenais	Stephanie Edelstein
Alan Kaplan	Noureen Chochan
Karen Maricheau	Bonnie Klem
Revathi Vikram	
Stephanie Edelstein	
Judith Peres	COA Alumni
Barbara Brubeck	Charles Kauffman
Mary Petrizzo	
Syed Yusuf	
Monica Schaeffer	Liaisons
Hileia Seeger	Austin Heyman, Office of Community Partnerships
Isabelle Schoenfeld	Beth Ann Nessett, Fire and Rescue Services
Noelle Heyman	Phil Smakula, Department of Recreation
David Denton	Leslie Marks, Senior Fellow-DHCA
Mort Faller	Marcia Pruzan, Senior Fellow–Age Friendly Montgomery
	Faisal Khan, Department of Transportation
	Charles Kauffman, COA Alumni
	Hyewon Lee, Asian American Health Initiative
	Stephanie Moore, Housing Opportunities Commission
	Staff
	John J. Kenney, Department of Health and Human Services
	Odile Brunetto, Department of Health and Human Services
	Tremayne Jones Department of Health and Human Services

Call to order–Chair, Noelle Heyman called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS–Noelle welcomed all attendees. Staff and guest introduced themselves.

ACTION–Approval of the summary of February 23, 2017 full Commission minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report–Treasurer Revathi Vikram reported that the COA account has a balance of \$ 6,380.82.

CHAIRS REPORT—The County Executive met with all Board, Committees, and Commissions (BCC) Chairs; Noelle, Odile and Isabelle attended the meeting. BCCs received additional ethics training, the County Executive listened to input from BCCs. When asked about contingency planning should Mr. Trump's budget be approved, the County Executive indicated there was no contingency plan. Much discussion of the proposed federal budget and its impact on the County followed. Commission on Aging (COA) has been collaborating with other groups to help increase the awareness of the work the commission is doing in the County.

Homeless Coalition Meeting—Isabelle reported on the Homeless Coalition meeting that was held on March 21st. The Interagency Commission on Homelessness (ICH) meeting was attended by representatives from various commissions. During the meeting, ICH spoke about a program titled *Inside (not Outside)*, *Inside (not Outside)* is a new initiative dedicated to ending chronic homelessness for individuals and families in Montgomery County by the end of 2017. This effort is being led by the County's Interagency Commission on Homelessness (ICH).

Inside (not Outside) builds on the successes of previous efforts to combat homelessness in the County. Through the *Inside (not Outside)* initiative, the 274 Montgomery County residents who have been identified as currently or at risk of being chronically homeless would be permanently housed.

What is the definition of chronic homelessness? The County follows the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition, which is that a chronically homeless individual:

- has a diagnosable disability, and
- lives on the streets, in a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
- has been homeless continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions (7+days) in the last 3 years where the combined occasions must total at least 12 months.

A chronically homeless family is one in which the head of household meets the definition for an individual.

Noelle reported on Montgomery County Food Security Plan Public Launch that will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2017 from 10:30 am to 12:15 pm at the Red Brick Courthouse located at 29 Courthouse Square, 2nd Floor Rockville, MD. Discussion will include the five-year collaborative strategy to fight hunger in Montgomery County. This plan is the blueprint for how every local business, nonprofit, government agency and resident can contribute to ensuring all County residents have access to sufficient, nutrition food. To find out more about this 5-year strategic plan you can visit their website at http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/exec/Resources/Files/pdf/MoCo_Food-Security-Plan_2017.pdf

Aging and Disability (A&D)—Dr. Jay Kenney addressed the audience about the County Executive's FY18 recommended budget which included new programs as well as a mix of increases and reductions. The budget included funding to add two additional staff for the Adult Protective Services Investigative Unit, and added funds for the Adult Foster Care Subsidy to increase rates for small group home placements.

Area Agency on Aging (AAA)—Dr. Odile Brunetto reported that the JCA 50 + Employment Expo will take place on Monday, April 3, 2017 from 10am-3pm at Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center located at 5701 Marinelli Road, Bethesda MD. Dr. Brunetto also reported on the following:

- Personnel changes in Aging Services include a new part time LTC ombudsman.
- There is a vacancy for a Program Specialist in the CFC program.
- Reductions include a cut of 1% for all HHS contractors except Developmental Disabilities this totals \$600,000 for HHS.
- Cut of 100k for Occupational Therapy contract.
- Budget additions: senior rental housing (120 units in East Silver Spring, \$600k plus land),
- 2 new APS positions,
- Increase for Adult Foster Care Homes, Senior Olympics staff full time for 6 mos., Sr. Fellow for the Sports Hall of Fame, \$40k for Community Outreach Partnerships for 2 new senior fellows.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Discussed planned meetings with Council member and Commissioners. There will be talking points and information in the packets for the councilmember and their staff.

Stakeholders update March 29th—COA Stakeholder Forum—The Stakeholder Forum will take place on March 29th, 9:00 am to 12:30pm at Silver Spring Civic Building. There will be a panel discussion with Age Friendly Work Group chairs for Communications, Transportation, Home and Community Based Services, and Housing. At the end of the panel discussion groups there will be a breakout sessions on those topics discussed. The breakout session will take a “speed dating” format where folks will move from one breakout session to another, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and identify gaps and there will be a survey that the participants can fill out at the end of the forum.

New Commission Orientation will take place on March 30th

LIAISONS

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services (MCFRS)— Beth Anne attended on the behalf of Jim Resnick. Beth Anne reported on joint collaborations of Fire and Rescue and Safety (Police), specifically around the Dementia Friendly Initiative continue. The County experienced is first fire-related senior death since 2006 when the death rate was at 14. New recruits receiving training in Community Risk Reduction. EMS continues training to address non-emergent needs and refers “frequent fliers” to appropriate resources with good success. Fire and Rescue is also working with Rebuilding Together by providing EMS training.

Department of Recreation (DOR) Phil Smakula reported that the Department of Recreation is hoping to expand evening hours. The department is asking for support for Senior Center Plus funding, for a new full time staff for Senior Olympics and a Senior Fellow for the South County Regional Aquatic Center Sports Hall of Fame. Repairs are being conducted at Holiday Park Senior Center, the elevators and wood floor are being replaced. Schweinhaut Senior Center received the National Institute of

Senior Centers Award. The Department of Recreation received budget cuts: \$45k for JCA bus transport to Senior Centers.

Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC)—Stephanie Moore reported that partnership and collaboration is key. Dental Pilot: Primary Care Coalition and the Muslim Community Center piloting dental clinics for low income seniors, 99% of whom are diabetics with heart disease. HOC is collaborating with Fire and Safety on an EMS Home Safety Check Program they are also partnering with high schools to help introduce technology and teach low-income seniors how to use it.

Department of Transportation (DOT)—Faisal Khan reported on upcoming events for Earth Month Transportation Week from April 8-14th. Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22nd. During the County's Earth Month Celebration sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection, DOT will promote Transportation Week with activities and events that inform the public about its commitment to the environment and transportation alternatives that are most sustainable. For more information, you can visit: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/>

Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI)—Hyewon Lee reported that AAHI will host an Empowering Community Health Organization (ECHO) workshop on Senior Safety on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 from 5:30pm-8:00 pm at Silver Spring Civic Building, Great Hall, One Veterans Place in Silver Spring. This *free* workshop is the second in a three-part series focusing on the health and social needs of seniors and their families. A resource fair will be held before the workshop from 5-6pm featuring local organizations and programs addressing the safety of older adults. Space is limited must RSVP by May 1, 2017. To find out more about the event please contact Diem-Thank (Tanya) Dang at diem-thanh.dang@montgomerycountymd.gov

Office of Community Partnerships (OCP)—Austin Heyman reported that 2 new Senior Fellows to help increase the numbers of skilled volunteers to assist non-profits. Austin discussed Seniors Today and the NACO Dental Discount and the need to explain the Senior Fellows Program to new Commissioners. OCP also held a meeting on anti-Semitism and are planning 3 meetings on immigrant status in the community.

Senior Fellow-DHCA—Leslie Marks and Mary Petrizzo are planning an Affordable Housing Roundtable for the April CoA Meeting. Leslie is also developing a training program for on-site managers of affordable housing.

Senior Fellow-Age Friendly Montgomery—Marcia Pruzan indicated the 3-Year Strategic Plan was close to final and in review. There was some discussion of how the Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly initiatives will work together and not diluting the Age Friendly brand.

COA COMMITTEE REPORTS

Aging in Place/Community and Planning Committee (AIP/C&P)—The topic of discussion at the meeting is the letter from Gwen Wright, Planning Director, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in response to the committee letter with recommendations for the Rental

Housing Study. The Committee welcomed Affordable Supportive Housing speakers Barbara Brubeck, Friends House and Joe Podson, Homecrest House.

Health Planning, Services and Community Supports Committee (HPSCS)- The HPSCS is recruiting more members for the committee. Discussion for continuation of Dental Summer Study was addressed at the meeting. There will be a Senior Resource Fair on June 1st from 10am-1pm at the Longwood Community Center located at 19300 Georgia Avenue in Brookeville, MD.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 27, 2017, at North Potomac Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully Submitted
Noelle Heyman, COA Chair